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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/084,789 | ENDO, MASAKI |
| | Examiner Tuan T. Lam | Art Unit 2818 |

AK

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address–

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 9/12/2003 and the telephonic interview on 11/11/2003.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5 and 6.

3. The drawings filed on 25 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.

4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All Some* None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

(a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.

(b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.

(c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|--|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>11/11/2003</u> . |
| 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. <u>4/24/2002</u> | 7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Tuan T. Lam
Tuan T. Lam
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2816

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney on William S. Frommer (Reg. No. 25,506).

The following changes have been made to the subject application:

The non-elected claims 3-4 and 7-12 have been canceled.

Claim 2:

Lines 9, 12 and 19 "if" has been changed to --when--;

Line 19, "said" (second occurrence) has been deleted;

Line 29, "said" has been deleted.

Claim 5:

Lines 9, 22 and 25, "if" has been changed to --when--.

Claim 6:

Line 2, after "counter", --further-- has been inserted;

Lines 3, 7, 11 and 14, "if" has been changed to --when--.

The Examiner's amendment has been made in order to comply with the 35USC 112, second paragraph and to place the application in a condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art record fails to teach or fairly suggest an up/down counter having a sub counter, to a count value of

which an initial value, a maximum value, and a minimum value are set, said sub counter executing at least one of a count-up operation and a count-down operation on the basis of up/down control signal at a rising edge of said third pulse data and, when said count value has reached said maximum value and said minimum value, setting a next cont value to said initial value, said up/down counter executing a count-up operation at a rising edge of said third pulse data when said cont value of said sub-counter is said maximum value and a count-down operation when said cont value is said minimum value as called for in claim 1, an up/down counter having a first counter, second counter and a third counter and the function associated with each counter as called for in claim 5. Therefore, claims 1-2 and 5-6 are presently allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan T. Lam whose telephone number is 703-305-3791. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday (7:30 am to 6:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TIMOTHY P CALLAHAN can be reached on 730-308-4876. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9318.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



Tuan T. Lam
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2816